GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
AGRO AND RURAL INDUSTRIES
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1866
ANSWERED ON:13.03.2007
RURAL INDUSTRIALISATION AND TECHNICAL ADVANCEMENT
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Will the Minister of AGRO AND RURAL INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a): whether the Government has formulated any scheme for rural industrialisation and technical advancement;

(b): if so, the details thereof;

(c): whether the Government is contemplating to accord autonomy to Mahatma Gandhi Industrialisation Institute, Vardha; and

(d): if so, the time by which autonomy to this Institute is like to be accorded?

Answer

MINISTER OF SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES & AGRO AND RURAL INDUSTRIES (SHRI MAHABIR PRASAD)

(a) to (d): The Government (in the Ministry of Agro and Rural Industries) has been implementing the following schemes for rural industrialization and technical advancement in the field of khadi and village industries sector:

(i) Rural Employment Generation Programme (REGP), through the Khadi and Village Industries Commission (KVIC), to help eligible entrepreneurs to set up village industry units and thus create employment opportunities in village and small towns with population upto 20,000. Under this programme, entrepreneurs can establish village industries by availing of margin money assistance from KVIC and loans from public sector scheduled commercial banks, selected regional rural banks, cooperative banks, etc., for projects with a maximum cost of Rs. 25 lakh.

(ii) Rural Industries Service Centres Scheme (RISC) for setting up of common facility centres (CFCs) to provide infrastructural support and services to such industries;

(iii) Product Development, Design Intervention and Packaging Programme (PRODIP) for improved designs and packaging of khadi and village industry products;

Besides, the Government has decided to set up the `Mahatma Gandhi Institute for Rural Industrialisation (MGIRI)` by completely overhauling and revamping the existing MGIRI, Vardha, which had come into existence in 2003 after the erstwhile Jamnalal Bajaj Central Research Institute, Vardha was rechristened as MGIRI. The MGIRI, Vardha is an autonomous body registered under the Societies Registration Act, 1960 to provide high quality scientific, technological and management inputs to strengthen rural industrialization and enhance opportunities of meaningful and productive employment in rural areas in the khadi and village industries. The promotion of rural industrialization would be helped greatly through capacity-building and technology upgradation in khadi and village industries (KVI), resulting in generation of employment opportunities in rural areas and higher productivity and incomes of artisans. The specific objectives behind setting up MGIRI are to,

(i) set up a strong two-way linkage between itself and the rural industrialists and technical experts in professional institutes so as to facilitate quick availability of modern science, technology and management inputs for rural industrialisation,

(ii) create a science and technology hub for KVI sector by developing strong linkages and interface with other institutions in the field of rural industrialisation,

(iii) build a database of technologies available in KVI sector,

(iv) facilitate setting up of rural industrial estates and clusters with necessary infrastructural facilities like power, specialised tool rooms, testing and marketing facilities,

(v) undertake and sponsor projects capable of giving substantial fillip to larger and increased market penetration to selected products of village industry,

(vi) conduct specialised human resource development programmes in generic areas such as Total Quality Management, creativity and innovation, rural entrepreneurship development,

(vii) provide training to trainers of the training centres of KVIC and Khadi and Village Industries Boards of State/Union Territory

Government, and to

(viii) promote innovation through pilot studies and field trials through research, extension, education and training